

CLAIMS

1 1. A data structure for an automated project tracking system, the data
2 structure residing in a computer readable memory and comprising:

3 a project window comprising a project identification field formatted to receive
4 and display a project identifier and a project status field formatted to receive and display a
5 project status;

6 a request window comprising a request identification field formatted to receive
7 and display a request identifier and a request status field formatted to receive and display a
8 request status; and

9 a task window comprising a task identification field formatted to receive and
10 display a task identifier and a task status field formatted to receive and display a task status.

1 2. The data structure of claim 1 wherein the project window further
2 comprises a request list, comprising:

3 a request identification field formatted to display a request identifier for each
4 of a number of requests for a project; and

5 a request status field formatted to display a request status for each of the
6 number of requests for the project.

1 3. The data structure of claim 1 wherein the request window further
2 comprises a task list, comprising:

3 a task identification field formatted to display a task identifier for each of a
4 number of tasks for a request for a project; and

5 a task status field formatted to display task status for each of the number of
6 tasks for the request for the project.

1 8. A display device for displaying a visual representation of a data
2 structure stored in memory, the visual representation comprising:

3 a project window formatted to display project level identification information
4 including a project identifier;

5 a request window formatted to display request level identification information
6 including a request identifier; and

7 a task window formatted to display task level identification information
8 including a task identifier.

1 9. The display device of claim 8 wherein the project window is further
2 formatted to display:

3 a funding summary including an identification and an amount of each of a
4 number of funding sources for a project; and

5 a request list including an identification and a status of each of a number of
6 requests for the project.

1 10. The display device of claim 8 wherein the request window is further
2 formatted to display:

3 a request list including an identification and a status of each of a number of
4 requests for a project; and

5 a task list including an identification and a status of each of a number of tasks
6 for a request.

1 11. The display device of claim 8 wherein the task window comprises:

2 a task list including an identification and a status of each of a number of tasks
3 for a request; and

4 an invoice list including an identification and an amount of each of a number of
5 invoices for a task.

1 12. The display device of claim 8 wherein the project window is further
2 formatted to display:

3 a funding summary including an identification and an amount of each of a
4 number of funding sources for a project; and

5 a request list including an identification and a status of each of a number of
6 requests for the project,

7 the request window is further formatted to display:

8 the request list including the identification and the status of each
9 of the number of requests for the project; and

10 a task list including an identification and a status of each of a
11 number of tasks for the request, and

12 the task window comprises:

13 the task list including the identification and the status of each of
14 the number of tasks for the request; and

15 an invoice list including an identification and an amount of each
16 of a number of invoices for a task.

1 13. The display device of claim 8 wherein the visual representation of the
2 project widow is in a first color, the visual representation of the request window is in a
3 second color and the visual representation of the task window is in a third color.

1 14. The display device of claim 8 wherein only one of the project window,
2 the request window and the task window is displayed at a time.

1 15. A method in a data processing system of project management,
2 comprising:

3 presenting a project window at a first time in response to a user request for
4 project level information for a project, the project window comprising project level
5 information related to the requested project and a list of user-selectable requests for the
6 requested project;

presenting a request window at a second time in response to a user selection at the project window of one of a number of the requests in the list of user-selectable requests; the request window comprising request level information related to the selected request and a list of user-selectable tasks for the selected request; and

presenting a task window at a third time in response to a user selection at the request window of one of the number of tasks in the list of user-selectable tasks, the task window comprising task level information related to the selected task and a list of invoices for the user selected task.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving a request by a user to enter information a particular project;
determining if a user has authority to enter information for the particular project;
entering the information if the user has authority to enter information for the particular project; and
refusing to enter the information if the user does not have authority to enter information for the particular project.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving a request by a user to modify information a particular project;
determining if a user has authority to modify information for the particular project;
entering the information if the user has authority to modify information for the particular project; and
refusing to enter the information if the user does not have authority to modify information for the particular project.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
automatically generating a form letter in response to a user input; and
automatically populating fields in the form letter with request level information and task level information for the selected request and the selected task.

1 19. A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system
2 to present project management information by:

3 presenting a project window at a first time in response to a user request for
4 project level information for a project, the project window comprising project level
5 information related to the requested project and a list of user-selectable requests for the
6 requested project;

7 presenting a request window at a second time in response to a user selection at
8 the project window of one of a number of the requests in the list of user-selectable requests;
9 the request window comprising request level information related to the selected request and a
10 list of user-selectable tasks for the selected request; and

11 presenting a task window at a third time in response to a user selection at the
12 request window of one of the number of tasks in the list of user-selectable tasks, the task
13 window comprising task level information related to the selected task and a list of invoices
14 for the user selected task.